

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6775

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG, SG, NI

SUBJECT: ZAIREAN FOREIGN MINISTER COMES TO LAGOS

REF: KINSHASA 7202 (NOTAL)

1. RESPONDING TO FMG INVITATION (REFTEL), ZAIREAN FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA KARL BOND ARRIVED IN LAGOS YESTERDAY TO, AS HE TOLD NEWSMEN AT AIRPORT, "EXPLORE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS" BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND NIGERIA. IN ORDER TO INSURE GOOD RELATIONSHIPS, THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD BEGIN PROCESS OF CONSTANT CONSULTATIONS. ON LESS DULCET NOTE, NGUZA ASSERTED THAT CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN ZAIRE AND NIGERIA WOULD NOT ONLY UNITE AFRICA BUT WOULD ALSO SHOW QTE:
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THE IMPERIALISTS THAT THEY MAY NOT FIND IT EASY TO CONTINUE TO

INTERFERE IN OUR AFFAIRS AND CAUSE CONFUSION IN AFRICAN STATES.
UNQTE.

2. VISITING FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO INDICATED HE WOULD DISCUSS
ECOWAS WITH FMG BUT TOOK CONCILIATORY TACK WITH PRESS. IN
REPLY TO JOURNALIST'S QUESTION ON SENEGAL'S INSISTENCE THAT ZAIRE
BE INCLUDED IN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, NGUZA SAID THAT WOULD DEPEND
ON THE WISHES OF THE FIFTEEN WEST AFRICAN MEMBER STATES. QTE:
ZAIRE CANNOT FORCE THE DOORS OF ECOWAS AND WE CAN NEVER EXPECT
THE OTHER COUNTRIES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP TO ACCEPT
ANYTHING THEY DON'T WANT TO. UNQTE. ONE NEWS STORY HAS
NGUZA GIVING SENEGAL ELEMENTARY GEOGRAPY LESSON "ZAIRE IS IN
CENTRAL NOT WEST AFRICA."

3. COMMENT. LOCAL PRESS AND "POLITICAL OBSERVERS" ARE LIGHTLY
PLAYING VISIT AS A VICTORY FOR FMG OVER ERSTWHILE RIVALS,
IMPLYING THAT ZAIREANS HAVE HAD TO COME TO NIGERIAN CANOSSA
AND THAT SENEGAL HAS BEEN ISOLATED ON ECOWAS, IT APPEARS,
HOWEVER, THAT FMG NOW SERIOUSLY WANTS CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH
ZAIRE AND WE EXPECT PRIVATE TALKS WILL BE CARRIED ON IN
GRACIOUS (BUT HARD-HEADED) MANNER. ALTHOUGH NOTHING HAS BEEN SAID
SO FAR IN PUBLIC, WE ASSUME THAT SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL HAVE MAJOR
PLACE ON AGENDA. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT FMG BECOMING INCREAS-
INGLY CONCERNED OVER INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION IN ANGOLA AND
BELIEVE THAT SPECIFIC TOPIC WILL ALSO FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN
DISCUSSIONS.
EASUM

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